

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 666  
By Woodson

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. John D. Lee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley for 35 years of meritorious service to the children of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mr. John D. Lee of Knoxville, who recently marked his 35<sup>th</sup> year of service with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley and was presented the Contribution to the Profession Award by the Association of Boys & Girls Clubs for having made a significant contribution toward the advancement of the Boys & Girls Club Movement during the course of his career; and

WHEREAS, a native of South Carolina and graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, John D. Lee began his legendary career with the Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley on September 16, 1970, when he accepted the post of Facility Director; and

WHEREAS, displaying an outstanding level of devotion to the Boys and Girls Clubs, John D. Lee quickly rose to the positions of Assistant Executive Director and Executive Director; currently President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, Mr. Lee holds the distinguished position of being the second President/CEO in the 60-year history of the organization; and

WHEREAS, truly a man at the right place at the right time, when Mr. Lee commenced his tenure as Executive Director 25 years ago the organization consisted of just two Boys Clubs. Under his dynamic leadership, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley have enjoyed a

remarkable and progressive expansion, including the merger of the Boys & Girls Clubs in 1990; and

WHEREAS, John D. Lee has been the driving force and primary reason that today, with an annual budget of over \$6.6 million, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley employ over 275 professionals, who serve 7,845 children of all ages, in 19 Club facilities, across Knox, Blount, Scott, Loudon and Fentress counties, providing over 460,000 USDA hot meals and snacks annually; and

WHEREAS, seeking to reach children at every level, the 19 Club facilities Mr. Lee oversees include five located within housing developments, four located within school facilities, seven free-standing Club facilities, and two Teen Centers, including the Moses Teen Center, which was one of the first programs designed to address the needs of disadvantaged teens in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, with John D. Lee providing leadership that is open to innovation, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley now also operate a Preschool Center serving children ages 16 months to five years and the Richard L. Bean Detention Center, one of only four such facilities in the nation; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary and courageous advocate for children, John D. Lee has successfully lobbied on behalf of his young clients with the positive result of a new law being enacted to ensure that every bus transporting children uses a stop sign while loading and unloading its precious passengers. He also played the pivotal role in passing legislation to enable Boys & Girls Clubs in Tennessee to choose to become Day Care licensed facilities; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades for his outstanding contributions, Mr. Lee has received the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Service to Youth Award and service Bar for 30 years of service to the Boys & Girls Club Movement, the Robert M. Sykes Award, the Directors Community Leadership Award from the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Professional Service Award for service to the National Movement, in addition to being recognized as a Youth Development Leader for his contributions to the Knoxville community by the Midway Rehabilitation Center; and

WHEREAS, an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and golf in addition to his work with the Boys & Girls Clubs, John D. Lee epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lee is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wonderful wife, Phyllis; together, they are the proud parents of three devoted children, Amanda, Maria and Phillip; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud John D. Lee for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Mr. John D. Lee for his 35 years of meritorious service to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley and the children of Tennessee, extending to him our best wishes for every continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.